

as a co-chair of the Friends of Norway Caucus.

Additionally, as Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense in the 117th Congress, I had the incredible privilege last year to travel to Norway to meet with senior leadership of the Norwegian Armed Forces and conduct oversight on prepositioned stocks of U.S. military equipment in country. As Vladimir Putin continues his unprovoked, unjust, and illegal invasion of Ukraine, it is more important than ever that the United States stand in support of our democratic allies. That includes those with geographic vulnerabilities to Russian aggression, like Norway.

Formalizing the Minnesota National Guard's relationship with Norway through the State Partnership Program will serve to strengthen Norway's military readiness in the face of the Russian threat. And the continuation of NOREX will enhance our own military readiness and further cooperation between the United States and a key NATO ally, all while promoting goodwill and mutual respect between our nations.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of this special military and cultural partnership with a traditional Nordic salute: Skol.

RECOGNIZING THE JANUARY CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Myrone "Bruce" Gaffney as my January Constituent of the Month. Bruce is a retired veteran who served in the United States Army for 17 years.

Bruce began serving in the United States Army in 1998. In 2013, while serving in Afghanistan, Bruce sustained an injury to his spine. He spent the next two years in rehabilitation at Walter Reed Medical Center, but his injury has made him one hundred percent disabled. Since 2015, Bruce has been on Social Security—a lifeline for him and so many others across the country.

I am proud to honor Mvrone "Bruce" Gaffney as my Constituent of the Month and announce that he will be my guest to the 2023 State of the Union. It is an honor to represent veterans in my district, and Bruce exemplifies the bravery, perseverance, and dedication that makes our community an amazing place to live. His injury has not stopped him from going above and beyond to enrich our community. In his free time, he has served on my Congressional Service Academy Panel that helps me select the next generation of men and women to attend our esteemed military service academies.

As Republicans discuss cutting Americans' hard-earned Social Security benefits, such as those Bruce relies on, I'm proud to highlight Bruce as one of my constituents whose life would drastically be affected if benefits were slashed. His expansive military background, resilience, and service to our Nation and district make me proud to honor Myrone "Bruce" Gaffney as my January Constituent of the Month.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY SATTLER PELTOLA

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Mrs. PELTOLA. Mr. Speaker, I briefly stepped out for personal reasons and was unable to make it back to the floor in time to vote on this bill. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 93.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on roll call No. 41.

RECOGNIZING MR. NORM PETERSON UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the illustrious career of Mr. Norman "Norm" D. Peterson upon his retirement from Argonne National Laboratory. Norm has been a leader in the science, technology, and innovation realm for over 35 years, and it has been an honor to learn from and, at times, work alongside his expertise. Norm's commitment to the scientific enterprise of this nation and the policymakers who shape its work will have a lasting impact into the future. Please help me celebrate this remarkable servant of the public interest and wish him well as he embarks upon this next chapter.

Early in his career, Norm Peterson was identified as a skilled leader in the science, technology, and economic development issues. Upon the creation of the Illinois Governor's Commission on Science and Technology, Norm was selected to become its first Executive Director. In this role, he oversaw the commission's creation and administration of a technology-oriented economic development program. This comprehensive plan incorporated technology transfer projects at universities and national laboratories and investment fund allocations to support the development of start-up, technology-driven businesses, showcasing Norm's extensive knowledge of science, technology, and economic development.

Norm's career at Argonne National Laboratory began in 1987. Though the laboratory had been operational for many years prior, its scope vastly expanded over the past 35 years, with Norm playing a crucial role in cultivating Argonne's reputation of excellence during this time. Argonne National Laboratory is now one of the U.S. Department of Energy's largest national laboratories for science and engineering research, housing over 1,250 scientists and engineers working to solve our nation's most pressing challenges in energy, the environment, and national security.

The expertise that Norm brought to his work led him to become the Director of Government Affairs for Argonne, a role that he crafted himself to maximize the efforts of the lab moving into the 21st century. His skill was heavily leaned upon as Argonne directed the construction of 3 major national user facilities—the Advanced Photon Source, Argonne Leadership Computing Facility, and Center for Nanoscale Materials. In addition, he was instrumental in launching the Guest House as the first state-funded building in the national lab complex and in his work helping plan the Joint Center for Energy Storage Research and the Q-NEXT quantum center.

Stakeholders from across the country recognize Norm as a valuable resource to science and technology research efforts, earning him membership on several boards and advisory groups. He earned a place on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Urban Technology, the University of Puerto Rico Center for Advanced Nanoscale Materials External Advisory Board, and the Northern Illinois University Research Foundation Board, among others. In addition to his professional contributions, he is also a dedicated servant to youth in his community, by previously serving on the Board of Directors for the Youth Campus, providing residential and community based social services to abused and neglected children.

In his retirement, Norm and his beloved partner, Lori Clark, are eager to enjoy international travel and spend more time with his daughter, Erika Peterson, and granddaughter, Emma. The couple intends on remaining in the Chicago area as they enter the next chapter of Norm's prolific life, and despite his retirement, I am certain that we will hear more from him in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to celebrate my friend and mentor, Mr. Norman D. Peterson, for his incredible contributions toward scientific and technological advancement in our nation. Colleagues, please join me in celebrating Norm Peterson and wishing him well as he transitions into his well-earned retirement.

RECOGNIZING MR. ROYAL PRESTON AS THE OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Royal Preston as the Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year. For several years, Mr. Preston has served Okaloosa Technical College with talent, passion, and an unwavering commitment to good education.

Northwest Florida is fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the country. The teaching profession is one of the most challenging yet rewarding professions in existence. Mr. Preston has performed his teaching duties exceptionally while also being an active and supportive member of his community.

Mr. Preston's support and outreach extend far beyond the walls of his classroom through his active involvement in his school and community. Mr. Preston worked as a building contractor, building over 200 houses and commercial projects. While Teaching Building Trades

and Carpentry for 29 years, he is passionate about sharing his craft and skills with his students. I commend him for his steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most—the students and the next generation of Americans.

I am truly proud to have Mr. Preston as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mr. Preston for his many accomplishments and his commitment to excellence, professionalism, and innovation in the Okaloosa County School District. I thank him for his service and wish him all the best for his continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEFENSE ACCESS ROADS IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "Defense Access Roads Improvement Act," which would make commonsense reforms to reduce congestion outside military installations. The Defense Access Roads (DAR) program is a unique partnership between the U.S. Departments of Defense (DOD) and Transportation. Under the program, the Secretary of Defense designates civilian roadways that provide critical access for domestic military installations as Defense Access Roads, making them eligible for military construction funding transferred to the Department of Transportation for road improvements off base.

Military installations anchor communities across the Nation, including Tavis Air Force Base in my Congressional district. The DAR ensures the DOD pays for maintenance, upkeep, or upgrades of roads impacted by military traffic and the constant movement of heavy equipment and vehicles.

My "Defense Access Roads Improvement Act" would create a new, public process for state, county, or municipal governments to petition the Department of Defense to designate new Defense Access Roads, unlocking military funding for needed roadway improvements off base. My bill would establish a new online database for designated Defense Access Roads and any outstanding federal funding requests, which improves public transparency and holds the Pentagon accountable. Lastly, my bill would also allow roads leading to commercial shipyards used by the U.S. Navy or Coast Guard to be designated as Defense Access Roads under the program, instead of just seaports as under current law.

This is a continuation of my work last Congress on the House Armed Forces Subcommittee on Readiness, which oversees all U.S. military installations and the Defense Access Road Program. I am committed to securing additional federal investment in off-base infrastructure. As a senior member of both the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I plan to make this legislation a top priority.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in cosponsoring the "Defense Access Roads Improvement Act."

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DOCTOR RICHARD WHITE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize Reverend Dr. Richard White of Detroit's Dexter Avenue Baptist Church on the occasion of his installation as president of the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity.

Reverend Dr. White was inspired by the call to the ministry at a young age. At the age of 17, he was licensed to preach at Beth Eden Missionary Baptist Church under the late Pastor Ocie Tabb, Jr. At the age of 20, he became an associate minister at Midway Baptist Church under the leadership of his father. Soon after Pastor White was called to pastor Greater Marion Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, where he remained in leadership until 2015 when he accepted the role of senior pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

Since becoming spiritual leader, Pastor White has worked hard to strengthen Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, ministering to the spiritual needs of his flock and the surrounding community. A lifelong Detroiter, Pastor White's strong connection to the community has driven his tireless work to set a vision for the future and make strides to bring it to fruition. He has undertaken projects to beautify the area and devoted himself to growing his ministry through community outreach.

Pastor White has been elected as one of the youngest presidents of the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit & Vicinity. He also serves as the 3rd vice moderator for the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist District Association. Previously, Pastor White has served in multiple organizational capacities, including president of the Fellowship District Congress of Christian Education, second vice president of the Metropolitan District Congress of Christian Education, general secretary for the Baptist, Missionary and Educational State Convention of Michigan, treasurer and financial secretary for the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity, and the financial secretary for Kingdom Building Pastors and People International.

Please join me in recognizing Reverend Dr. Richard White's numerous contributions as we celebrate his new role at the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on January 30, 2023 for Roll Call Vote 94. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call Vote 94.

HONORING PETER PARUCCINI

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and memory of Peter Paruccini of Yuba City. Mr. Paruccini, a loving father and devoted husband, was a bright light in Northern California that was tragically cut short, passing away at the age of 39. His footprint on our area was one of service. The North State has lost one of its heroes.

Peter was a life-long resident of Yuba City, and although he split time between Santa Barbara and Yuba City, he always loved coming home to see the Sutter Buttes. Peter attended college at UC Davis where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science. Peter continued to stay in the area, choosing to teach at an underserved junior high school in Davis. This was the beginning of Peter's lifelong call to serve.

Later in life, Peter felt the call to serve our country in the military. Exchanging his teaching credentials for military boots, Peter joined the United States Army in 2006 serving as an Infantryman. During his military deployment, he stood out for dedication to serve with the utmost distinction, bravery, and honor. Peter's service is something we should all try to emulate.

Upon his return from the military, Peter found a career in law enforcement. Peter worked in both the Bay Area and Ventura County before being recruited out of law enforcement to work with a large utility company thanks to his expertise in project/product management and logistics.

My heartfelt condolences are with the Paruccini family. It is with them that Peter's memory will be kept alive. Peter was a loving father to his son, George; husband to his wife, Celeste; and son to his parents, Stephanie and Luigi. May God bless their family, and may Peter find eternal rest at last. Rest in Peace.

HONORING MS. MARY GATANAS ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to celebrate Ms. Mary Gatanas as she reaches a significant milestone in her life—her 80th birthday.

Ms. Gatanas has lived an impressive life up to this juncture. A strong and loving mother to Andrew and Adrienne, grandmother to Tristan, Markella and Tatum, and a devoted military spouse to Major General Harry Gatanas, Mary's selflessness and generosity are a hallmark of every relationship she has forged.

As an Army Officer's spouse through 29 years of service, Ms. Gatanas endeavored to leave her mark on every place she and Major General Gatanas were posted—a tall task considering their 24 separate moves. Nonetheless, everywhere she went, she always went above and beyond for the Army families around her.